



Week 3 Assignment 1 - Update Personal Wiki

Overview

Every week during this course you will update your personal wiki. For this course, you will use the personal wiki that you created in EDLD 5306. You will update your wiki once you've completed all of the readings, videos, and discussions associated with each week's lesson.

Rubric

Task(s)	Accomplished	Proficient	Needs Improvement	Unacceptable
Extends personal wiki to include knowledge learned about the Week 3 topics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proofread carefully (no errors) before posting and followed the rules of netiquette: http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html. Wiki update demonstrates excellence in effort, research, and creativity. Wiki posting reflects an in-depth, substantive one to two paragraph update. Student submit the wiki link to the academic coach for review. <p>(maximum 10 pts)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 to 2 minimal errors. Wiki update demonstrates effort, research, and creativity. Wiki posting reflects a minimum of 1 in-depth paragraph. Student sent the wiki link to the academic coach for review. <p>(maximum 8 pts)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numerous errors. Little evidence of a wiki update. Little effort, little research, and/or little creativity. Wiki posting reflects less than 1 paragraph and content is not aligned with the week's topics. Student sent the wiki link to the academic coach for review. <p>(maximum 6 pts)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incomplete. Late with completion. General failure to follow expectations.

Instructions

After completing this week's readings, videos, and discussion, update your personal Wiki to include knowledge learned in Week 3.

Once you've updated your personal wiki, submit the information by copying and pasting your post in the box below.

This assignment is due no later than 11:59 p.m. on the seventh day of Week 1 of this course.

Your wiki's URL	http://listentothenames.wikispaces.com/EDLD+5364+Teaching+with+Technology
Time and Date of Your Update	1:00pm 12/04/09
A Copy of Your wiki Posts (Copy and paste from your wiki)	<p><i>[This post is preceded by a copy of my discussion post]</i></p> <p>In this post, I delve further into the learning theory of connectivism, which builds upon my last post on differentiation through technology. Unlike the theory of constructivism, in which new knowledge is made meaningful to us as learners only by assimilating it into our base of existing knowledge, plugging it in like a Lego building block to incorporate it into what we already know, connectivism deals more with the importance of our connections to information and knowledge. It is this potential for knowledge, in which knowledge may exist externally to us (such as in an appliance or database) yet is available through the network of connections we form, which best models the world of today's "digital native" students. Unlike the days when we "digital immigrants" were in school, in which we memorized tables and formulas and had to possess the information in our head needed to work out complex math problems, our students today carry relatively little information with them internally, but know how to find all the information they need to construct new knowledge by using these information connections. Follow these Wikipedia links to compare and contrast the theory of connectivism versus constructivism.</p> <p>Connectivism is also very relevant to our students today due to the inherent diversity in the available sources of information, and the community of opinions that are used to synthesize knowledge. Our current students have a much broader base of experiences and knowledge than we did at their age, leading to great diversity of learning styles and educational needs. Differentiation, the practice of providing multiple modes or channels of learning through which students can accomplish the same learning goal, is well supported by connectivism and the rich diversity of multimedia content available on the web. There are, so to speak, many paths to enlightenment.</p> <p>An interesting blog by George Siemens about connectivism, and his definition of connectivism, really expands upon the notion that for today's students, it is all about currency of information. Why would you want to memorize a fact that will change tomorrow? Thanks to technology, the sum of mankind's knowledge is increasing at such a rate that the learning styles of the past, based on accumulating knowledge internally, are made obsolete. No one person could ever absorb a fraction of our current knowledge, so we must focus on teaching our students how to connect or network to new information and content, synthesize knowledge using this information as needed, and then use this newly-formed knowledge as a springboard to network to even more current information.</p>

	<p>When we as educators are expected to prepare students for an unknown future, or a job that does not exist today, teaching them the learning skills required to synthesize new knowledge based on a connectivist approach is the only learning model that fully meets the needs of our diverse students in this ever-changing world.</p>
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